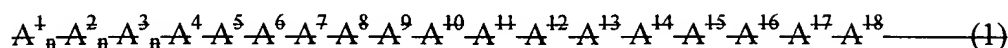


CLAIMS AMENDMENT

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula



and acylated and/or amidated forms thereof,

wherein each n is independently 0 or 1;

A^1 , A^2 [[,]] and A^3 are each independently any amino acid;

A^4 , A^{12} [[,]] and A^{17} are independently ~~acidic amino acids~~ E, D or Q;

[[A^{13} ,]] A^{14} [[A^{15} , and A^{18} are independently]] is an aromatic amino ~~[[acids]] acid~~;

A^5 , A^7 , A^8 , A^{11} , and A^{16} ~~represent any amino acid~~;

A^6 [[,]] and A^9 [[A^{10}]] represent independently a basic amino acid or a polar neutral amino acid;

wherein each of said amino acids may be in the L form, racemic form, or D form, with the proviso that

the compound of formula (1) does not comprise ALEAKICHQIEYYFGDF when all amino acids are in the L-form, and

must be in isolated form when all amino acids are in the L-form and formula (1) is of the sequence LDLDTKICEQIEYYFGDF, DDADQRIIKQLEYYFGNI, VSKLEASTIRQIEYYFGDA or QERAIIRQVEYYFGDF.

2. (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein all amino acids are gene encoded.

3. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein all linkages between A^i ~~subunits~~ the amino acids are amide linkages.

4. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein all of $[[A^i]]$ the amino acids are in the D form.

5. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein all of $[[A^i]]$ the amino acids are in the L form.

6. (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein each of A⁴, A¹² and A¹⁷ is independently aspartic or glutamic.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein ~~each of A¹³, A¹⁴ and A¹⁸~~ A¹³, A¹⁴ and A¹⁸ is ~~independently~~ phenylalanine or tyrosine.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein each of A⁶[[,]] and A⁹ [[and A¹⁰]] is independently lysine, histidine, arginine, glutamine, or asparagine.

10. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of AALEAQICQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:2), AALQAKICHQIQYYFGQF (SEQ ID NO:3), QQQEAKICHQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:4) and AALEAKICHQIEYQFGDF (SEQ ID NO:12).

11. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which is in isolated or purified form and is selected from the group consisting of ~~ALEAKICHQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:13), AALEAKICHQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:14),~~ LDLDTKICEQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:15), ~~AALEAKICHQIEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:16),~~ DDADQRIKQLEYFYFGNI (SEQ ID NO:17), VSKLEASTIRQIEYYFGDA (SEQ ID NO:18) and QERAIIRQVEYYFGDF (SEQ ID NO:19).

12. (original): A pharmaceutical, veterinary or agricultural/horticultural composition which comprises the compound of claim 1 along with a suitable excipient.

13-19. (canceled)

20. (original, withdrawn): A method to treat viral infection in a plant or animal subject which method comprises administering to said subject an antivirally effective amount of the compound of claim 1.

21. (original, withdrawn): The method of claim 20 wherein said method further comprises administering at least one additional antiviral agent.

22. (original, withdrawn): The method of claim 21 wherein said administering of the compound and said at least one additional antiviral agent is substantially simultaneous.

23. (original, withdrawn): The method of claim 21 wherein said administering of the compound of claim 1 and said at least one antiviral compound is sequential.

24. (original, withdrawn): The method of claim 21 wherein said additional antiviral compound is I-RNA.

25-35. (canceled)